

T-291

Bishop's House

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 04-05-2004

The Bishop's House
214 Goldsborough Street
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-291
C1880

The tall, frame structure is most notable for the gabled pavillions which project from the central block on the major facades. The two-and-a-half story building is covered with steep gable roofs with widely overhanging eaves.

Philip Francis Thomas, a former Governor of Maryland (1847-49) and a former Secretary of the Treasury under President Buchanan, built this house about 1880, after he retired from public life. After his death in 1890, his widow sold it to the Diocese of Easton, and it was used as the residence of the Bishop of Easton until 1956 when it reverted to private ownership.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

T 291
2102915604
Town of Easton

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Bishop's House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

214 Goldsborough Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dewey H. McMahan

Telephone #: 301-822-2018

STREET & NUMBER

Box 177

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

Liber #: 412

Folio #: 2

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

T-291

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED : slightly	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This tall frame structure stands on the southwest corner of Aurora and Goldsborough Streets, across Aurora Street from Foxley Hall. The building faces north.

This structure is characterized by tall, narrow gabled pavilions projecting from a central rectangular block. The front northern elevation, has two pavilions facing the street; side elevations on the east and west, each have one pavilion in the southern portion of the facade. The gable ends have widely overhanging eaves finished by plain, narrow fascia. Each pavilion is two bays wide and a full two-and-a-half stories in height.

Double windows with two over two sashes are found in the gables which are covered with wooden shingles. The other windows in the structure also have two over two sashes in plain, unmolded frames; they are spaced evenly, two per pavilion per floor. The west front pavilion is filled with a rectangular oriel window on the second floor; below is a three-sided bay window. Ornamental pierced work is found on the fascia of both the oriel window - where it is a flat band of vine-like decoration - and the lower bay - where a row of slots is used. Horizontal panels with deep moldings are used beneath the windows in each face of the bay; two over two sashes as elsewhere, are used.

The main entrance is in the center of the north facade, between the pavilions. It has two-panel double doors which lead into a central hall where a stair and a rear entrance are located.

A wide porch runs around three sides of the building, front, east, and rear. Its gently sloped roof is carried by double square columns. There is a railing with plain wooden balusters. Windows on the first floor under the porch are very tall and have two over two over two sashes.

The chimney rises near the center of the structure, where the gable ridges meet. The chimney is cruciform in shape and has corbelled base and cap.

Inside the rooms are tall and rather vacuous in feeling. Heavy, very deep (12-15") cornices are used in the major downstairs rooms. Doors and window frames have wide frames trimmed with deep broad composite moldings. The dog-leg stair has a round, carved newel, turned balusters and jig-sawn step brackets. The wooden mantles are undistinguished.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

T-291

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES C 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Philip Francis Thomas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lot fifty-eight, as it was originally laid out on the Town Plat by John Needles in 1790. It was divided in 1878 when the Western half was sold to the Nicols family and in 1879 when the Eastern half was bought by Clintonia G. Thomas. Clintonia and her husband, Philip Francis Thomas built the present house.

Philip Francis Thomas was first married to Sarah Maria Kerr. He was intensely interested in politics even as a young man. Though he broke from the family tradition in allying himself with the Democratic party rather than the Federalist or, as it was later called, the Whig Party. In 1839, he won his first elected office to Congress. He served only one term, but subsequently served two terms in the Maryland House of Delegates and in 1847 was elected Governor of the state. During his administration, a Convention was called to rewrite and update the Constitution of the state. For a short time, in late 1860, he occupied a seat in the Cabinet of President Buchanan, when he served as Secretary of the Treasury. Because of his southern sympathies, he was forced to retire. Though the Senate refused to seat him in 1866, he did take a seat in the House of Representatives in 1875. He ended his political life with two terms in the Maryland House of Delegates. His second wife, whom he married late in life, was the daughter of Governor Robert Wright and the widow of Captain William May of the U. S. Navy.

Philip Francis Thomas died in 1890 and his widow sold the property in 1891 to the Diocese of Easton to be used as the residence of the Bishop of Easton. It continued as such until 1956 when it reverted to private hands and has since been held as an investment for rental.

* History of Talbot County, Vol. I. O. Tilghman. pp. 583-587.
Williams and Wilkins, Company. Baltimore, Maryland 1915.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-291

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.
Tilghman, Oswald. History of Talbot County, Vols. I and II, (Baltimore:
Williams and Wilkins, Company), 1915.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
NA

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE None COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

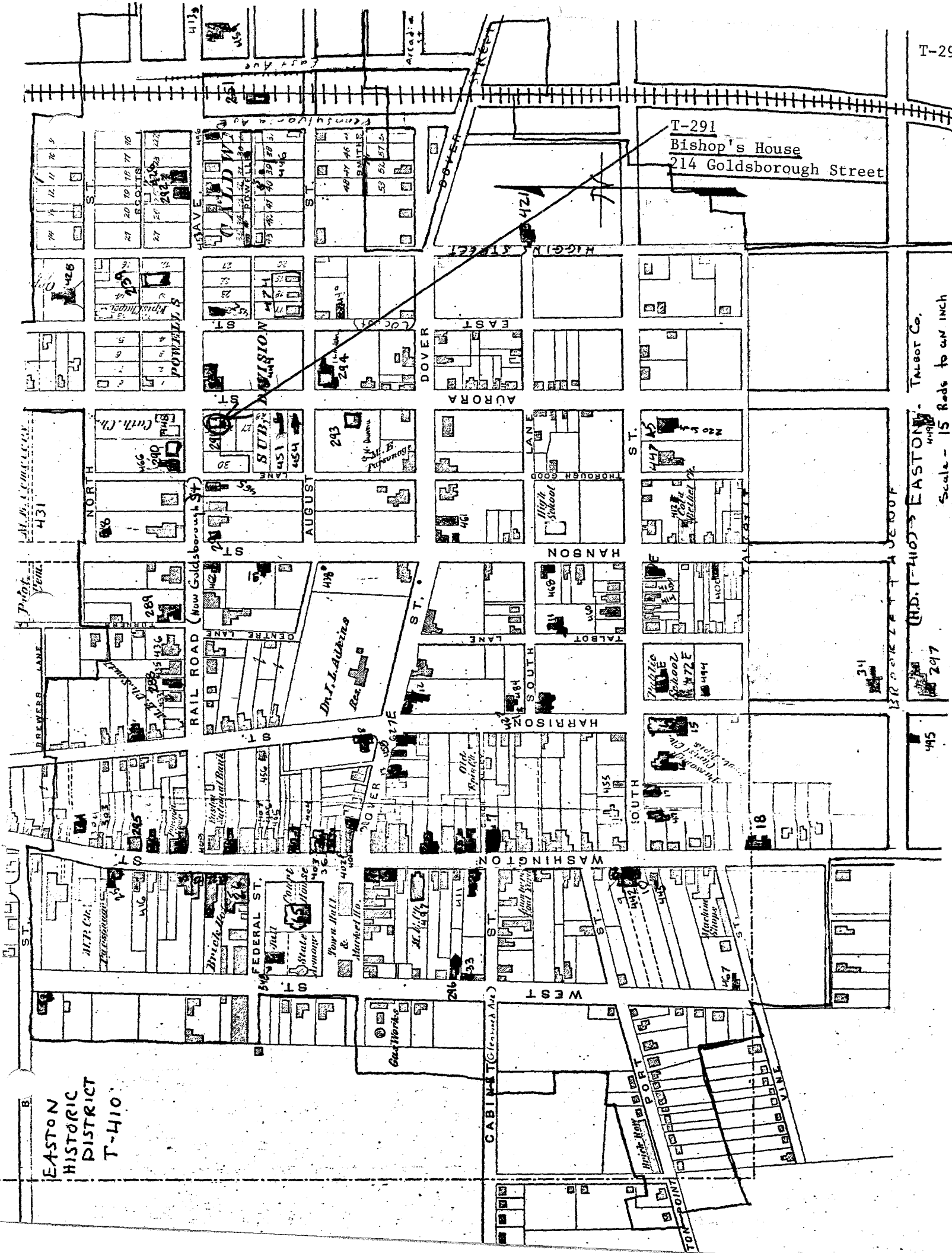
NAME / TITLE	Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant, Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian	
ORGANIZATION	Historic Easton, Incorporated	DATE August 30, 1976
STREET & NUMBER	Box 1171	TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons, 301-822-2706 President
CITY OR TOWN	Easton	STATE Maryland 21601

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

EASTON
HISTORIC
DISTRICT
T-410



T-29

T-291
Bishop's House
214 Goldsborough Street

Talbot Co.
Scale - 15 Rods to an inch

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472 E

Public School

High School

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LANE

AURORA

DOVER

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LOCUST

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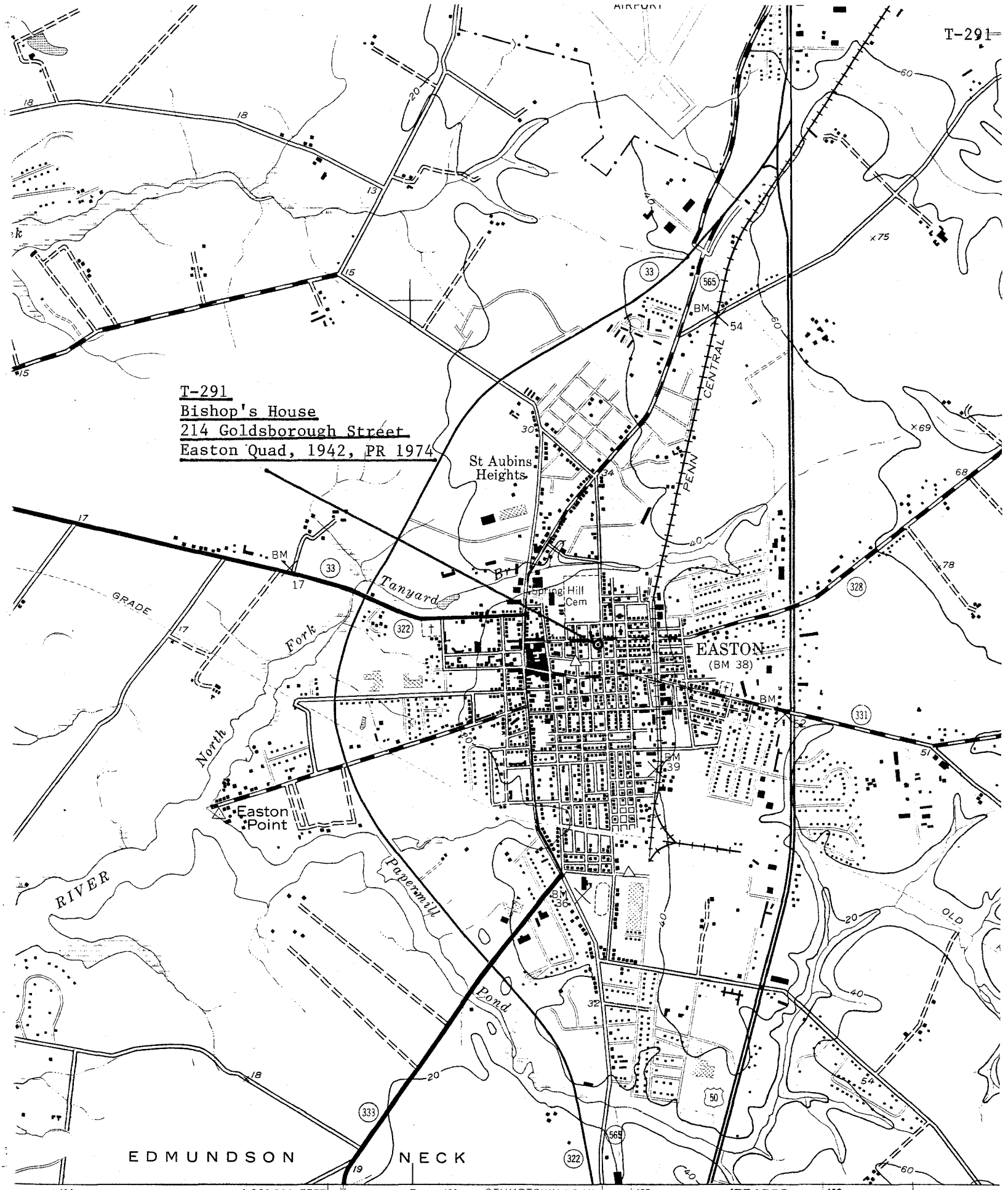
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T-291
Bishop's House
214 Goldsborough Street
Easton Quad, 1942, PR 1974



EDMUNDSON

NECK

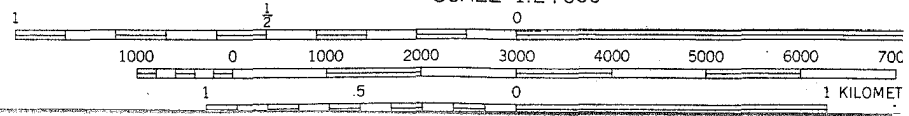
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TRAPPE 67 MI.

(TRAPPE)
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291

THE BISHOPS HOUSE
214 GOLDSBOROUGH STREET
EASTON, MD

LOOKING SOUTH EAST

JULY 1976

ML FRITZ

~~T-418~~

T-291

F. R. VERNON - WILLIAMS, JR.
510 DIAMOND STREET
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601